



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

29 MAR 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Continued Presence and Space Requirements in the Grosse Ile, Michigan Area

**FROM:** Bruce Sypniewski  
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator  
Region 5

*BS*

**TO:** Vaughn Noga, Director  
Office of Administration

Pursuant to our discussions concerning the status of EPA's Large Lakes Research Station (LLRS) located in Grosse Ile, MI, and the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory's plans to vacate later this year (attachment), please consider this as Region 5's official notice for our continued presence and space needs in the Grosse Ile, MI area.

Our Regional staff, approximately 14 who currently share office space in this facility, undertake Emergency Response work as on-scene coordinators (OSCs) as well as oversight of Superfund sites in the area. In addition, an employee of EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) is stationed there to oversee millions of dollars of Great Lakes clean-up efforts under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

From a program perspective, as conveyed by our Superfund and GLNPO directors, it is critical that we maintain our presence in the same geographical area as Grosse Ile, MI, the benefits being:

- 1) **Significant Reduction in Emergency Response Time:** Immediately following a land or water environmental emergency, EPA personnel must respond to support and assist local authorities. The greatest benefit to having out-stationed OSCs at or near Grosse Ile is the ability to reduce response time and improve the effectiveness of the Region's emergency response capabilities both in Southeast Michigan and neighboring states.
- 2) **Proximity and Access to other Agencies:** The Grosse Ile office location is close to numerous federal and state agencies with whom cooperation is critical for emergency planning and response. Work under the National Contingency Plan or Federal Response Plan requires close relationships with all levels of government. Please note

that EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID) personnel are currently co-located with R5 personnel at the LLRS. Continued co-location with CID would help keep overall costs low as well as help to maintain these relationships.

- 3) **Outreach:** As a result of our long history at the Grosse Ile location, efficient working relationships have been established with local response officials and effective partnerships with state and local governments have been improved. The existing location is centrally located to maintain these existing partnerships, and continued occupancy will maintain mission-critical interaction between federal, state and local partners.
- 4) **Employee Access:** The 14 Region 5 employees have their homes in this area.

Based on the above, it would be of great benefit to EPA and the Emergency Response Program to maintain our presence in this area. Your continued support either in securing our continued use of the existing facility as tenants under an agreement with a new property owner or management, or in finding a new location suitable for continuing OSC operations and maintaining good working relationships with all levels of government in the vicinity, remains most appreciated.

The details of our facility needs have been conveyed separately to our contacts at the Facilities Management and Services Division.

Please contact John Haugland, Facilities Manager (312-886-9853, [haugland.john@epa.gov](mailto:haugland.john@epa.gov)), Marc Colvin, Chief, Employee Services Branch (312-886-0138, [colvin.marc@epa.gov](mailto:colvin.marc@epa.gov)), or me for any informational needs you may have in addressing this need.

Attachment

cc: Yvette Jackson, Director, Facilities Management and Services Division  
 Rick Karl, Director, Region 5 Superfund Division  
 Christopher Korleski, Director, Great Lakes National Program Office  
 Bill Ridge, Director, Real Property Service Staff, OA  
 Michael Petruelli, Realty Specialist/COR